

Greenfield, N.H. Nov. 13. 1861

My dear Mr. May -

Your letter acknowledging receipt of the copy of
John Brown I sent by Dr. Cheever has just come to hand.
I am truly glad you like it. Indeed no favorable opinion
could gratify me more than yours. It was an amusing
though very troublesome & somewhat tedious job. Having
understanded it we took great pains to make it as complete
as possible & we left no stone unturned to collect all we could
find that could promote this object. If Mr. Westcott had seen
what a show we made of a copy of his book - how much we
quoted - how much we paraphrased - what a pains we
made to read all his fine writing & to turn his high flying
deduct into sober matter of fact English, how could he have
been surprised if he has anything of an authors touchiness.
We were careful to be as severe in our mode of selection as
possible & to avoid any approach to extravagance - for nothing
is so sure to draw down the most merited ridicule of our
fellow countrymen as to show it is unimportant to
conduct. In this we have succeeded beyond our hopes -
for, without any personal effort of our own to obtain them,
we have had the good luck to get favorable notices from
many of the most influential organs of literary opinion.
In the compilation we did not attempt to make Brown the
subject of the book & to introduce as little as possible of any
other except so far as it was necessary for this object. The
greater part of the edition is sold. Whether another will be
called for I cannot at present say. As to the portrait
I could have preferred Hyatt's portrait as the most char-
acteristic & most striking - as also a copy of Brachetts bust -
but Miss Estlin preferred that which we have from her father
for the very unbecoming English people who think from
eccentricity, the smooth shaven Parson face was
the most judicious. I have a very high opinion of Miss
Estlins judgment in all matters of taste, style, & the
fitness of things, & when we differ she generally turns out
to have been in the right.

Seeing that Dr. Cheever was not abroad (though he did not
say so) to undertake the carriage of many copies I only
sent four by him - one for himself, for Mrs. Brown, for Miss
Hemlock. The delay must have been his fault or Mr. Hemlock's.
I expected you would have got them long before. As the
162 copies were sent in sheets, we added to to supply any
possible imperfections - but if they should turn out all right
of course you are at liberty to dispose of them as you like.
I printed a few copies on a fine tinted paper which looks
better than the common ones, & I will send you one of
them when a chance turns up - or perhaps I had
better send it to "Ada" as a reward for her kindness in
copying some of Maria's letters so beautifully. Will you
please tell me whether my young friend's name is Adela, or
Adela, or Adeline, or Adelaide, or Adele. You mention to
Redpath as a remnant of one of the stray copies. I thought
of sending him one myself - but feared it would be adding
insult to injury after the felonious appropriation I have
made of his labours. As your son Edward takes to his
new employment with good will & an easy conscience
I heartily wish him success & safety. Everybody here whose
opinion is worth having respects the course of the Leedes
as utterly base & abominable - but it is generally felt that
they are too resolute & united that the North will find it
hard to subdue them - and that since (as far as we can
see) the North seems to have no strong anti-slavery
convictions, there is but much left worth fighting for, or
to call forth any warm sympathetic third man's aid.
All sorts of opinions are entertained & expressed by our press,
but the ~~balance~~ majority of these opinions indicate in
my opinion that a bold, resolute, high principled
course is the one that would command the most
respect & lead to the best results in the long run,
or even in a very short run. The most deplorable
feature in the present state of affairs is the fact
that such a large proportion of the Northern people
are utterly blind to the deadly ruin which slavery
meets with in any social system into which it is allowed

to exist. Why not openly demand of your public men - your statesmen, editors, divines & other guides of public opinion to explain to the satisfaction of the people how your institutions can possibly coexist on the basis of such a deference to the claims of the slave holder which they other partisans demand from the abolitionists - how the American nation can possibly be a respectable & respected nation whether reunited or disunited on the terms of the toleration of slavery. If the war continues sufficiently long for England to secure an amply cotton supply, I do not see how the slavery can be maintained in the South as a remunerative system, since its principal market will have disappeared. As far as I can judge, the English Government speaks an entirely admirable word in the present dangerous emergency of our inefficient cotton famine. The idea of paying the blockade is regarded as all of this question - & it seems to be admitted on all hands that we must not interfere in the general & should do our best to secure ourselves from the chance of such another crisis.

I saw a truncated copy of your notice of Brown in the Liberator which appeared to have been perused by somebody who never saw the book. I hope it may be noticed in the Standard.

My husband is still unemployed except temporarily in my office - the delay at the delay. He has taken pains to get some permanent printing - but feel anxious about him on the account.

There is Sunday & next Saturday the eldest of my two
sons, Alfred, aged about 27, is to be married to a steady
young woman of respectable family & very modest ex-
pectations. He will live in our town house which his
mother has had a busy time of late getting ready and
looking after. The great advantage that you in the U.S.
which in my view has been over us that you have been
less anxious in making your way in life - less afraid of
the wolf coming to the door - & less afraid when he does come
of being able to drive him away again. The young lady
in the present case is domestic, upright & a good housekeeper
and the young man in every way excellent & honorable
so I am willing to hope they will be able to live, even if they
never succeed in "letting the Thames run free."

I enclosed a bill of lading of the Bremen to Mrs. Chapman
for you. When they come I will be glad to know at your
earliest leisure. - The mode of sending the Standard
has led to great disappointments & many remonstrances.
The last was from one of our members of Parliament,
Mr. Ed. Foster, a good abolitionist. I sent him very
duplicately as he keeps a file, until the paper comes
right again. - We need not mind the Liberator to Mrs. Fairb.
She is a good woman, very generous, very poor, but rather
unpractical & flighty. - The advocate to Ed. Jackson
must have been sent to him to N.Y. in a mistake as
we have his address to Boston. - Perhaps it would be well
to send the last 6 Standards sent on the last plan to W. E.
Foster, Otley - and to Elizabeth Abbott, Leyce, Lancashire,
as I have also a complaint from the last lady. I am
the scape goat, being the honorary agent. Joseph Lupton,
Leeds, unless his Liberator discontinued. Being a sufferer
by the warlike tariff, I suppose he thinks himself
unable to afford money for an agent that looks so far
off as abolition ^{over} times. Fremont was rebuked. It is
then the matter looks to me here.

Dear Mr May - It is now Oct. 19 - This
day my son is married. I suppose the
poor fellow is now hurrying by rail with
kicks on the way to Dublin & then to
North Wales to begin their married
life by a few days of leisure.

I got the Standard today with your
very friendly notice of Mrs Brown.
I sent one by Dr Cheow for Mrs Brown.
I hope she has got it & I would like to
send one to Mrs Ruth Thompson when
an opportunity occurs direct from
myself.

Yours ever affectionately

Richd D Webb

Recd. Nov. 4. 1861.

ans^d. " 10. " (in part)

Place enclosure in a
proper envelope & forward
to Rev. Samuel May.

Ask Webb to address his suggestions about Standard
business, mailing, subs^{ns}, &c. direct to S. H. Gay, N.Y. &
not to me; - Certainly not in the first instance.

~~Congratulate him on success in authorship.~~